

Original Goals

1. To serve as a nonprofit enterprise.
2. To remain nonpartisan in politics.
3. To remain neutral in religious matters.
4. To print news accurately and regularly.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 31, Number 2

GREENBELT MARYLAND

Thursday, November 30, 1967

Original Goals

5. To make its pages an open forum for civic affairs.
6. To develop a staff of volunteer writers.
7. To create a "Good Neighbor" spirit, promote friendship, advance the common good, and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy" of life. - November 24, 1937

News Review Marks 30th Anniversary

Allen the Printer

A Tribute

His full name is Herbert A. Allen. But to the generation of editors who have struggled every week to get out the News Review, he was just Allen the Printer (and this included his wife and family.) No disrespect was intended; it was simply that Allen has been an institution as far as the News Review was concerned. Always helpful in meeting our deadlines, sympathetic to the News Review's community causes, and, most important, patient in our times of financial straits, Allen the Printer has always held our appreciation. The following stories, by former and present staff members, are a tribute to this warm relationship.

A Printer by Tradition

by Rita Fisher

Herbert A. Allen - "Allen the Printer" - has been in the printing business since he was 13 years old. As owner of the Allen Printing Company, he has been responsible for printing the Greenbelt News Review (formerly known as the Cooperator) for at least twenty of its thirty years of publication. His first contact with the News Review occurred when the paper decided to change from a mimeographed copy to regularly printed issues, produced in the printshop of the Prince Georges Post. Allen was employed by the Post at that time, and he personally supervised the first printed issue.

By the time the Post, having grown to an 8-page paper, announced that it could no longer handle the job for the News Review, Allen was ready to take over. He had just started his own printing company and was recommended by his own linotype operator, Sis Harvey from Glenn Dale, who had many friends in Greenbelt. Donald Cooper was the first editor Allen dealt with, soon followed by Sally Meredith.

One of the most sacred institutions for a newspaper is meeting the deadline - in our case, the Thursday night distribution. Allen has been quite reliable in this respect, and if delays did now and then occur, there always was a good cause, such as a little fire breaking out in the shop, or a form falling off the press and

(Cont. on P. 2A)

Only One Allen

by I. J. Parker

By default, the editorship of the News Review became mine many years ago. The latest editor had resigned, the staff had dwindled to a handful of diehards, and there was a debt of over \$1000 owed to the printer - Mr. Allen. Debt had always been a constant companion to the News Review, but the size had grown to ridiculous proportions. After a survey of the situation, I spoke to Allen on the phone and told him I could carry on the paper with a one-page edition on a pay-as-you-go basis; and diminish the debt from time to time, if possible.

It would be dramatic here to say that Allen said forget the money and paint him as a hero of sorts, but it would not be true. Allen worked hard at his trade, had a family to support, and had earned the money owed him.

I suppose he had no choice. If the paper died, he might come into the ownership of a few battered typewriters and a pencil sharpener. But we were determined that the paper would "not miss an issue" both literally and figuratively. There followed a year of gradual financial recovery, punctuated by pleas from Allen for sums to "pay my electric bill" at last.

Allen will always be a hero to me, because of his patience and good humor. There was never a dispute or ill-tempered demand. He printed the newspaper, waited for the money, and the newspaper survived. There have been other editors, but only one Allen.

This special edition of the News Review stresses the last five years of publication. In November, 1962, a 25th anniversary issue was published, copies of which are still available.

Staff members Mary Smith, David Stern and Alfred Skolnik prepared this issue.

I Remember Allen

by Harry Zubkoff

I remember Allen vividly, although we got off to a bad start my first night as News Review editor. There was no one else in the office; obviously, there's no other effective way to break in a new editor. When the phone rang, I answered it crisply, filled with a sense of my own importance.

"This is Mr. Allen," a voice said, and something in his tone set a chill in the air.

"Yes, Mr. Allen," I said cautiously. "What can I do for you?"

"Well," he said quietly, "I just wanted to tell you that if you don't pay something on your account, I won't be able to print your paper this week."

Right off I suspected that he was our printer far away in Hyattsville, and to show you how sharp I am, I also figured that we owed him some money, maybe. But, like every well-briefed new editor, I had been carefully kept in the dark about the paper's financial position and business arrangements, so I asked him pointblank.

"And how much do we owe you?" I didn't know when to leave well enough alone.

"About \$1000," he said sadly, "and I've already carried you longer than I should."

He wasn't kidding. A thousand dollars represented about four months of billing, which is sheer madness for any businessman. But that's Allen. He's got "heart."

To make a long story short, Allen continued to carry the paper, though I don't know how we coned him into it.

It has sometimes been exciting, as when the ancient press breaks down. It has sometimes been educational, as when special editions or unexpected changes require new make-up and layout when the forms are already on the press. It has sometimes been an adventure, as when, on occasion, we have had to search for an old plate in the incredible jumble of backdated material which litters the premises, and found the most interesting treasures in memorabilia. It has always been pleasant.

In the course of time, the whole Allen family became involved with the News Review. Mrs. Allen and their son, "Red," were most intimately involved when I was editor, sweating out each issue just like the rest of us on the staff. If they were not personally affected by Greenbelt's many battles over the years, they were nevertheless infuriated by the same injustices, enraged by the same inequities, appalled or delighted, just as we, by the antics of various public figures on the local scene.

They came to know the community better than most of its residents. They knew the names of officers and members of local organizations; even more important, they knew how to spell those names and corrected many of our mistakes. I must confess, though, that we always blamed mistakes on Allen, but then, the printer's lot is not a happy one, at least in that respect. They carry the weight of the world on their shoulders; after all, if it were not for printers, what would we know about the world around us?

First Issue of Paper Appeared Nov. 24, 1937

Six weeks after the first residents of Greenbelt unpacked their household belongings in 1937, a newspaper had been issued. Recognizing the immediate need for a news medium, the first families had formed on November 11, 1937, a Journalistic Club to issue a weekly paper, the "Greenbelt Cooperator."

The policies of that paper, as formulated at that meeting, were: to serve as a nonprofit enterprise, to remain nonpartisan in politics, to remain neutral in religious matters, to print the news accurately and regularly, to make its pages an open forum for civic affairs, to develop a staff of volunteer writers, and to create a "good neighbor" spirit, promote friendship, advance the common good, and develop a "Greenbelt philosophy of life."

These principles still guide the motives and actions of the present Greenbelt News Review, the direct descendent of the Greenbelt Cooperator. The name was changed in September, 1954, in order to clarify the independent status of the paper and prevent its being confused with numerous other co-op organizations in Greenbelt. The Journalistic Club lasted until July, 1940, when it was converted into the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, which has continued the sponsorship of the paper ever since. An incorporation charter for the Association was granted in September, 1941, by the District of Columbia.

The First Issue

The first issue of the Cooperator, appearing on November 24, 1937, was a neatly mimeographed paper containing sixteen letter-sized pages of local news and editorial content.

The newspaper has appeared regularly every week since then for thirty years.

The paper was prepared at the homes of various staff members until January, 1938, when the Federal Government (which owned Greenbelt at that time) made space available at the Center, free of cost, and also loaned much-needed furniture, typewriters and office

equipment. To meet the costs of paper, ink, and stencils, a charge of five cents per copy was made, beginning with the issue of January 5, 1938. Distribution was turned over to the Boy Scout troop, which was allowed to retain two cents for each paper sold.

Free Delivery

An important development in the history of the newspaper was the decision to deliver the Cooperator free of charge to every home in town, beginning with the issue of September 7, 1939. The additional cost of local distribution was small, and this radical change of policy provided larger circulation figures, which could be used as evidence of the value of advertising in the paper. The idea clicked. Local businesses began to advertise in the Cooperator, once its distribution had become community wide. The town government engaged more and more space for the publication of pending ordinances, budgets and the like.

The policy of free distribution remained unchanged until July, 1953, when the paper was forced by financial straits to go to a subscription basis - \$3 a year. The response was fairly encouraging, but the added cost of maintaining subscription records convinced the governing body that the additional income was not worth the additional workload. In January, 1955, the paper returned to city-wide circulation.

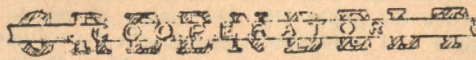
Financial difficulties continued to plague the newspaper, and appeals were made to the businesses and organizations in town for funds. Finally, in April, 1959, the News Review resorted to a house-to-house community-wide drive for funds. Organized by the drive chairman, Elaine Skolnik, who was aided by 125 volunteer court collectors, the drive netted over \$1,500. It proved such an unqualified success that it was renewed again the following year.

The yield from these drives was sufficient to meet the needs and no drives have been conducted since 1960; however, a fund drive has been launched this year by the Greenbelt Freedom of the Press Committee to help the paper defend itself against libel charges. At the present time, over 4,500 free copies of the News Review are distributed weekly to homes in Greenbelt, including Springhill Lake and University Square Apts.

Offices of the Paper

The News Review has had several homes since its inception. From its original second-floor quarters in the commercial center the paper moved its offices four times before finally coming to rest

(Cont. on Page 4A)



Greenbelt's Own Newspaper
Greenbelt, Maryland
Published by its Citizens
Vol. 1, No. 1
Published Every Wednesday
November 24, 1937

NEW GROCERY STORE
TO OPEN HERE SOON
Co-Op Gas Station Starts
Operations

Opening date of the new store has, for several weeks, vied for honors with the bus service and politics as the most popular conversation piece in Greenbelt; and it is felt that at this time some word of its progress will be welcome.

While Consumer Services is ready to open the store, there will be some delay until the premises are ready for occupation. Electricity and refrigeration have not yet been provided for, and as several holes have yet to be drilled through the eight inches of concrete floor, and plumbing lines have to be run through the building, it is unlikely that the store will be ready for several days.

This announcement was made with deep regret by Mr. R. W. Templeman, store manager, who had hoped for an earlier opening date.

The filling station, by way of compensation, has now been operating for several days. This will also be run according to the cooperative principle, meaning that the Greenbelt car owner may now buy gas as well as groceries cooperatively.

(Continued on Page Two)

JOURNALISTIC CLUB BEGINS
WORK ON NEWSPAPER
Consumer Services Aids
Greenbelt Weekly

The Greenbelt Journalistic Club held its first meeting Thursday evening, November 11, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, 35 G Ridge Road.

More than fifteen persons participated in a general discussion on the best methods now available for the distribution of authentic news and announcements in Greenbelt.

Several attending the meeting summarized their personal experiences in publicity and newspaper work and volunteered their services as reporters.

Tentatively, a plan was suggested to issue six numbers of the Cooperator, a weekly journal, covering matters of local community interest.

The principle generally adopted by club members is that any bulletin or newspaper in the community shall be non-partisan in politics, and cooperatively designed.

As its first venture the club will sponsor the Greenbelt Cooperator with the assistance of Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc.

The club elected the following officers: Louis Ressemer, president; William R. Poole, vice president;

(Continued on Page Seven)

Editorials We Remember

The News Review has taken editorial stands on many topics during its lifetime. We have not always been right, our views have not always been shared by the citizenry, but here are a few positions we have taken that we are proud of.

Where Is Greenbelt Going?

As more and more of the plans for the vacant land in Greenbelt come off the drawing boards, it appears obvious to us that our concept of Greenbelt as a planned community differs widely from that of the developers.

Our concept, and one that we believe is shared by the majority of Greenbelt's citizens and officials, visualizes the future Greenbelt as a balanced community. There would be some apartment dwellings, some commercial zoning, some low-cost housing, some medium priced individual and duplex housing, and some high-quality free-standing homes.

Such a balance would provide the broad tax base needed to finance desirable city services. At the same time it would retain the present character of Greenbelt as a city primarily of homeowners who have a deep and abiding interest in the development of Greenbelt and its services.

Already this balance has been thrown out of kilter by the development of Springhill Lake Apartments, which may eventually house more people than presently live in Greenbelt. It is obvious that any further rental apartment and commercial zoning will further unbalance the community.

Yet the developers keep pushing their plans for high rise and rental apartments. If these plans are adopted without change, about 80 percent of Greenbelt's eventual population will be living in rental dwellings, compared with 25 percent today.

The developers boast that this will make Greenbelt the most densely populated area in Prince Georges county . . . that such development will bring Greenbelt out of its isolation and provide its citizens with many new community services . . . that such development, as compared with that of individually-owned homes, will produce less of a burden on the city tax rate.

Has anyone asked whether such a metropolis is what Greenbelt residents want? Has anyone asked whether Greenbelt residents are so desirous of tax relief that they are ready to turn the rest of Greenbelt into a community like Langley Park, consisting primarily of commercial strips and rental apartments? Has anyone asked Greenbelt residents whether they are ready to accept the consequences of such development — traffic congestion, crowded schools, elimination of green spaces?

We think the developers would be well-advised to consult once again the Community Goals adopted by the city council on November 25, 1963. This document, prepared by the Advisory Planning Board as a guide for the future development of the city, calls for the preservation of Greenbelt as a residential community and for development to the maximum of individually-owned homes or apartments.

It can safely be predicted that failure to heed these objectives will find the developers faced with constant, endless opposition and controversy along every step of the way.

— March 5, 1964

A Necessary Decision

Last Monday evening, the City Council voted 4 to 1 to reaffirm its earlier decision to appeal the commercial zoning of the Golden Triangle. Individual councilmen who voted for the appeal are to be commended, even though they voted in the face of the knowledge that the chances for a successful appeal were not the best.

But the basic issue has never been whether the appeal chances were good or bad or whether the legal expenditure of \$6,000-\$7,000 was warranted. The basic issue was whether Greenbelt was going to stand up and fight for its future and the integrity of the master plan with its concepts of low-density land use, minimum traffic congestion, maximum open spaces, and scenic beauty.

It would be little comfort to Greenbelters 10 years from now, while struggling with traffic and other social problems created by a densely-populated community, to know that the 1966 City Council saved \$6,000, but refused to exhaust all the remedies available to it for preserving the character of Greenbelt as a low-density residential community.

Even if this particular appeal is lost, the significance of the Council's decision of last Monday will remain. Greenbelt has made clear to all parties concerned that it is deadly serious about preserving the community and is not simply going through the motions. It has served notice that every future zoning case in conflict with the goals of this community will be fought to the hilt through every means available. The impact of this decision on future zoning matters should not be underestimated.

— December 8, 1966

Rita's Night School Classes

Apart from its crises and excitements, the News Review also has known moments of happiness and achievement. Such a moment occurred one Tuesday night, when Rita Fisher brought a bottle of pink champagne to our basement office and invited everyone present to join in celebration of her raise in grade. You wonder what this has to do with our newspaper? Here is why - in Rita's own words, as they appeared in the News Review:

I've been going to night school for over eight years without really knowing it. And I have been doing lots of homework in the daytime, without realizing it. And I have enjoyed every minute of it. Now, the "education" I received has finally paid off. Today I received notice that I have qualified for a position with the U.S. Government through the Federal Service Entrance Exam (FSEE).

When I offered my services in any way possible to work with the Greenbelt News Review over eight years ago, and was asked if I had any previous experience in newspaper work, I didn't have much to offer but my willingness. So I went to work.

It took a while for me to meet the regular Tuesday night crew because I started as a proofreader, working silently many, many Wednesday nights with Editor Harry Zubkoff. I can remember how quiet Harry's house was. While I sat reading over the printer's galleys for errors, Harry would be cutting up another set of galleys, measuring space needed for the ads and then setting them up on dummy sheets. I could then offer my services to help scotch-tape everything together.

The Urge to Write

Eventually, the writing bug hit me. Mind you, I am only a high school graduate with no formal training in journalism. But my words in print were accepted and I was encouraged to do more. To this day, covering a city council or GHI meeting scares me to pieces but I am proud to do it.

There undoubtedly are many residents of Greenbelt who might have wanted to write for the News Review but feel that they are not good enough. I dare you to try. The encouragement you will receive is very rewarding. And frankly, the Tuesday night sessions down at the office at 15 Parkway are the most exciting part of it all. Where else can you feel the pulse of the city but in a newspaper office? And the News Review on Tuesday nights is really jumping.

Credit for N-R Work

Recently, a program was started at the Civil Service Commission to explore the possibilities of promotions for employees in lower grades through the guidance of personnel counsellors. In discussing my background with one of these persons (I am a GS-4), she advised me to take the FSEE exam and use my experience on the News Review as a basis for qualification. I passed the written exam, submitted my application with a resume of my experience with the News Review which, by the way, equalled the necessary three years of regular full time experience and today, July 12, 1966, I was notified that I am qualified. The nicest part is that there is a job waiting for me. All I needed was the qualification and now I have it.

So, I feel that I have been furthering my education for the last eight years. I am looking forward to another eight years, but from now on I'm taking a postgraduate course at the News Review College of News and Knowledge. Anyone care to enroll? Come down to 15 Parkway on Tuesday night and meet the Faculty.

— July 21, 1966

News Review Editors since 1962

Virginia Beauchamp	June 1962 - December 1962
Russell S. Greenbaum	January 1963 - June 1963
Dorothy Sucher	July 1963 - September 1963
Mary Louise Williamson	February 1964 - October 1964
Dorothy Sucher	November 1964 - December 1965
Mary Louise Williamson	January 1966 - February 1967
Mary Smith	March 1967 -

As Others See Us

Publisher's Auxiliary Runs Report About News Review

Thirty years ago, it would have taken incredible clairvoyance to predict that, come 1966, *Publisher's Auxiliary* - a nationwide weekly concerned with the newspaper business - would devote to us the better part of a page, in an article titled "Paper on a Shoestring Sued for \$2,000,000."

Not only did *Publisher's Auxiliary*, in its issue of September 24, 1966, describe us by the

PRINTER (from p. 1A) breaking into pieces. Once it was a water main that broke, but the paper nevertheless appeared the following day.

Allen's Views About Greenbelt

Being the News Review's most avid reader (his job calls for it) Allen feels that the tail is outgrowing the dog, as far as Greenbelt is concerned. He recalls the days when there was "a tremendous interest" by the citizens of Greenbelt regarding what was happening to their town. And they let their feelings be known, both pro and con.

There was a time, Allen also recalls, when it used to be a pleasure to take a ride to Greenbelt. Traveling along an old country road, it was just like taking a ride to the country. Now it's gone, Allen reflects, and all you find is traffic to fight.

Regarding himself, Allen feels that he is just a printer, like Ben Franklin. He would rather work among the machines in his shop than tie himself up with office work. The same feeling is held by his wife, Olive, and his son, Herbert, Jr., "Red," who both work with him. Allen also has a married daughter who used to work in the shop when she was younger. The other Allen in the family is a son serving with the Armed forces in Viet Nam.

Allen and his family are very active members of the Hyattsville Seventh Day Adventist Church. Their shop is closed on Saturday in observance of their Sabbath and open on Sundays.

The writer of this story has known Mr. Allen for quite a while herself. Her husband handled the weekly distribution of the News Review for about six years and, when you multiply that by 52, that's a lot of weeks. She remembers the times when the paper did not arrive on time and a hurried call had to be made to the printer. Then there were a few times when there weren't enough papers and another call had to be made to request additional copies, sometimes delivered or picked up the same night or the next day.

The News Review is very fortunate to have the Allen family printing its paper. Long may our association continue.

somewhat ambiguous term, "the country's poorest newspaper," it even ran a picture of one of the less cluttered corners of our basement, dignifying it by the label "Editorial Office."

Here is some of what the *Publisher's Auxiliary* had to say:

"What may easily be the country's poorest newspaper is now being sued for \$2,000,000. The Greenbelt (Md.) News Review operates, according to Dorothy Sucher (who appears to be the editor in charge, at the moment) on a shoestring, and a frayed one at that. Now involved in a lawsuit for more money than the paper and all of its 20-odd part-time staff possesses, the News-Review is taking up a collection to fight for its survival.

"... The position of the News Review was that the land developers were trying to force a compromise of the city's master plan and that such a compromise worked to the disadvantage of the community. The News Review reported the running battle between the developer and the city of Greenbelt with a certain pungency and printed several letters to the editor which were critical of the builder . . . and then, the paper was sued.

"... Besides raising money to fight lawsuits, the News Review has had to go door-to-door to solicit funds when things really got tough. The last fund drive, in 1959, was so successful that there had been no need for another until the present lawsuit came along. The offices of the News Review are located in the basement of an apartment house (rent \$3.00 per month) and between the pipes and electrical junction boxes, the (staff members) give their voluntary services for the News Review.

"The citizens of Greenbelt have a real interest in their giveaway weekly. Letters come in accusing the paper of taking sides or applauding it for its guts - but either way, the News Review prints them all. Advertising in the News Review is sold by volunteers who receive a 10 percent commission (if it can be afforded). The News Review publishes four to eight pages each issue, dependent on how the ads come in (and this is usually a last-minute decision which is made in the bleak hours of Tuesday night!)"

**Congratulations to the
Greenbelt News Review on 30 Years**

of Service to the Community

1937 — 1967

**Greenbelt Federal
Credit Union**

CELEBRATES ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY

DECEMBER, 1967

Located in the Greenbelt Shopping Center
(between the Drug Store and Supermarket)

Words of Praise ...

In January 1963, a minority group on the Greenbelt Homes Inc. board of directors proposed that Greenbelt Development Corporation (a wholly-owned subsidiary of GHI) charge the Greenbelt News Review a monthly rent of \$50 for unused basement space it was making available to the newspaper at the Parkway apartments. Up to that time, the corporation had made the space available rent-free as a public service, with the newspaper reimbursing GDC for out-of-pocket expenses such as electricity (\$3 a month). The issue was settled at the annual membership meeting of May 1963 when the GHI members voted (with less than 10 nays out of a possible 390 votes) to continue the policy of providing rent-free quarters to the News Review. As distressing as this incident was to the News Review volunteer staff, which considered the move an attempt to harass and intimidate the newspaper and a threat to its editorial independence, a source of comfort was the flood of letters to the editor supporting the newspaper. Following are a few choice excerpts:

"Many citizens don't realize that a majority of people who work on the News Review have a strong feeling of pride in the newspaper and in what it stands for. . . . It means that most of the staff believe that the News Review stands for something special in the newspaper world, and that they identify themselves with its purposes and accomplishments. I know many of these people personally, and we do very little in helping them carry out their individually assigned tasks."

(February 7, 1963)

"Could it be that just because the News Review reports the news as its reporters see it that there is such a hullabaloo?"

(February 14, 1963)

"When we moved here two and one-half years ago our first impression of the vitality of Greenbelt was gained from reading the News Review. . . . If GDC wishes to 'tax' the News Review out of existence by imposing rent on a non-profit organization for space that is not suitable for commercial or residential use, we feel that it would be making an error which all of us would soon regret."

(February 14, 1963)

"No suburban community can support a real money making newspaper. . . . But operated as a co-operative, we have a vital paper, open to anyone who can write and is willing to spend some time helping to produce the paper. . . . And I believe our community is much

the better because of it."

(February 14, 1963)

"For a quarter-century the newspaper has been the voice of the people of this town. . . . The volunteer working force has almost miraculously renewed itself through the generations. During that time, perhaps more than any other single voice, the newspaper has been a unifying agency in the town, causing residents to feel and act as citizens. . . . This sense of identification is not to be confused with conformity or unanimity of opinion. In fact the paper has, in its variations of editorial policy, probably caused citizen action through heated dispute more often than through gentle persuasion. Nevertheless this has kept Greenbelt from becoming just another suburban sprawl of sleeping quarters without character or community spirit."

(March 14, 1963)

"I want to thank the News Review for providing a forum from which I could hold forth. I well know, and I am sure that all of Greenbelt likewise recognizes the fact that all the members of the News Review staff work long hours with no thought of personal reward in order that the paper is available for all of us. For that I thank all of you."

(April 4, 1963)

"My criticism of the News Review is that the paper is too, too polite in its endurance of jackassery and misrepresentation."

(April 4, 1963)

...And We Get Brickbats

"Your newspaper has not been objective in its reporting of the news and its editorial policy has been lopsided. . . . It has been quite apparent to this observer for years that your newspaper in its alleged news coverage singles out for favorable mention the actions of individuals whose cause you endorse. . . ."

(Letter to the editor, February 7, 1963)

"I have been a reader of the Greenbelt News Review for the last two years. During this time I have become accustomed to reading slightly slanted news and strongly partisan editorials. . . . I strongly object to the News Review's double standard in reporting and editorializing!"

(Letter to the editor, November 14, 1963)

"I am moved to take you to task gently (for, I judge, you are a lady) for some apparent sloppiness in the operation of your paper."

"Most disturbing is the fact that the weekly issues are dated Thursday but never arrive at my door until Saturday. . . . Assuming you intended to get the paper to me by January 28, why do you carry a meeting notice in that issue for Monday, January 25? . . ."

"Your copy editing is sloppy too. There is no 'partially frozen ice' in this world. It is the lake, dear lady, that was partially frozen. . . ."

"I think your paper has a definite valued place in the community. But just because the advertiser pays and not the subscriber — don't get too complacent. If I stop reading, the advertiser will stop paying."

MBH

"Editor's Note: A partially frozen smile played over our lips as we read MBH's letter. . . . Incidentally, the last person who wrote a letter along MBH's lines ended up as the News Review Editor."

(February 4, 1965)

Speaking Sternly

(Editor's note—Over the years Greenbelters have been entertained by columnist David Stern's end-of-year predictions for the coming year. Here is a synthesis of his wildest prognostications.)

January: Snowstorm dumps two feet of you-know-what on suburban area. Greenbelters enjoy clean streets while the rest of the county grinds to a standstill. Record cold freezes Greenbelt Lake; ducks move to city's swimming pool.

February: Ducks disappear from swimming pool. City manager estimates Greenbelt's population at 20,000.

March: During annual clean-up week, GHI member paints house dark-green with white trim. Mass protest of GHI members. Annual ambulance drive announces squad captain will sing "For he's a jolly good fellow" in front of the doors of those contributing \$20 or more.

April: Voter registration drive produces 15 registrants from Springhill Lake; organizers say they are highly satisfied. City manager estimates population at 25,000.

May: General manager of GHI refers "Green House" to new board. Ex-city bus turns up unexpectedly at antique car show, wins prize. Foundations are laid for new library, Southway overpass, the Korvette bargain center, 29-story "Greenbelt Towers," and sundry petty projects.

June: Greenbelt begins to live up to its nickname, "apartment city." Same morning as prankster puts up "for rent" sign on city building, city manager receives three offers. Sign removed in afternoon, offers rejected by council after closed executive session. Springhill Freeway, by-passing the Kenilworth traffic jam, is opened to the public, while the dualization of Northway is progressing rapidly. Population estimated at 30,000.

July: Bears reported in Greenbelt Park; crowding of campgrounds abates somewhat (report is denied after tourist season is over). Drought broken by rainy spell, city fathers forced to postpone 4th of July fireworks. City manager estimates population at 35,000.

August: Fireworks display finally held on August 6. Following fireworks show, city fathers place construction of comfort station at lake park on top of agenda. Greenbelt receives safety award from AAA, somewhat offsetting the results of a recent poll of that organization's membership, which overwhelmingly voted "Greenbelt Rd." as "the road I most hate driving on." Highway department promises new road to "Golden Triangle" as soon as city parkland is transferred for this urgent purpose. On the 31st, drought forces WSSC to ban watering at all times except alternate Sundays following the full moon.

September: Primary elections. Losers blame News Review for biased reporting. Winners say they won in spite of biased reporting by News Review. City manager reports population now stands at 40,000. Local Boy Scout troop captures skunk in Greenbelt Park.

October: A master plan for Area 13 is released, allocating 45 percent of Greenbelt's area to highways, the rest being a balanced mix of apartments and parking lots. One month to elections, and on Southway a large sign appears overnight (no one knows by whom): "In your guts, you know they are all nuts." Scouts readmitted to school.

November: Elections, of course. New county commissioners write mayor that his advice is no longer needed. Southway - Glenn Dale cloverleaf hailed as big advance. ("The Armory was no longer useful anyway," says spokesman of Highway Dept.)

December: Frantic shoppers stream to Klein's; those losing their way create a minor boom in Greenbelt's Shopping Center. City manager estimates population at 45,000, give or take a few. An International commission gives consideration to proposal to hold next World's Fair on "Golden Triangle."

The Holiday Spirit

The New Year holidays (or is it the spirits?) always seem to stimulate the imaginative and productive abilities of our writers. As a result, our year-end issues are flooded with creative outpourings, resolutions, poetry, and predictions of things to come. Here are a few samples.

Point of View . . . by Dorothy Sucher

Be a better editor: Write an editorial every week; learn to view more things with alarm. Be tactful, pass the buck; explain to president of Greenbelt League to Restore Wrestling Matches on TV that printer removed article about their membership drive from the front page. Memorize News Review's advertising rates so won't sound idiotic over telephone. Read News Review (not just for spelling mistakes) to learn what's going on in town.

Be a better faculty wife: Help husband get ahead. Never ask wives of his colleagues what their husbands do for a living. Never ask visiting Nobel Prize winners what did they say their name was, again? Never yawn at parties.

Be a better mother: Learn to lose every time at chess, Scrabble, Go Fish. Share children's interests, study up on theory of internal combustion engine, thermodynamics of flight, new math; memorize multiplication table. Keep large supply on hand of cookies, candies, potato chips but never eat them myself.

Be a better housewife: Organize all closets and drawers. Patch knees of pants (reminder: enroll

for course in invisible mending). Vary menus imaginatively; tempt appetites; use only broiled lean meat and green salads to cut down on calories. Always hang up drip-dry clothes the moment the dryer stops.

Be a better citizen: Join the League of Women Voters. Join the Democratic Party. Join the Republican Party. Join the ACLU. Join the John Birch Society. Know the issues. Write to my congressman. Ring doorbells. Run away.

Be a better person: Quit all organizations. Resign from committees. Meditate. Read widely and deeply.

Stop Smoking: Since I never smoke while standing up, stand up whenever I want a cigarette in 1965 (reminder: buy Space Shoes at once). Install breakfast bar with footrail in kitchen. Learn to type standing up like Hemingway—this should also improve my writing. Drive standing up. Sleep standing up. Buy no more cigarettes; scrounge. Order a case of chiclets at once.

Lose weight: Easy. In the course of my lifetime I've lost hundreds of pounds, so I know I can do it.

— December 31, 1964

What's New in Greenbelt

What's new in Greenbelt? Not very much; Meetings and teas and a ballgame and such, A fund drive, a bake sale, a wedding, a birth; Nothing that's likely to shake this great earth. When Greenbelt's aroused, and the voters assemble, I doubt that we set many crowned heads atremble; Perhaps it's absurd to make much of a fuss Over crises and outcomes known only to us. Yet the life of a very small town, in the end, Is Life—on a scale we can all comprehend. A heart-to-heart talk or a hard job well done, A day that was hell or a day that was fun— Is there very much difference in feelings and faces In different ages and different places? So, what's new in Greenbelt? The Council's to meet, And we'll be there with bells on, for Greenbelt's our beat.

Dear Readers: the News Review staff is sincere In wishing all Greenbelt a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

— December 31, 1964

Greenbelt Grab-bag by Punchin' Judy

Seasons Greetings, Greenbelt dear, Have a wonderful New Year. We wish to you in sixty-six, Preponderance of treats over tricks. A Master Plan we hope for you That lets a little green peek through. May builders come with less intensity And grant to you, we hope, low density. As for traffic jams, may you have none, But a traffic light, you know which one. We hope for zoning that is not too commercial, And a high school site that is not controversial. Your library building, may it really come true, If not right now, in a year or two. May the city officials be guided to act, To our advantage in theory and fact. Let your residents, Greenbelt, feel happy and proud, May you, as a city, stand out from the crowd, May your citizens, but not all your buildings, stand tall, Happy New Year to you, Happy New Year to all.

— December 30, 1965

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Point of View

by Dorothy Sucher

Padded seats in the City Council chambers! It didn't make the front page of the News Review, but as far as I was concerned, it was the big news of the summer when I made the discovery at a council meeting.

News Review reporters have grumbled for years about the economical iron maidens to whose embraces we had to submit whenever we covered council meetings. Oh, that creeping paralysis spreading upward from the hips and reaching the brain at about 11 p.m.—with sometimes another hour or two to go before adjournment! The councilmen who complained about our garbling their midnight oratory didn't realize the difficulties we had to contend with.

Now that they've padded the seats, however, I no longer hesitate to urge every Greenbelter, especially the newcomers, to attend a council meeting one of these days. It's an education in the democratic process that puts civics classes and newspaper perusal in the shade.

When I moved to Greenbelt in 1957, I had never lived anywhere but in New York City. "Politics" and "politician" were dirty words to me—dirty and dull. The strength of my opinions on matters political was equalled only by my ignorance.

Fighting City Hall was something no one in his right mind would do, which accounts, to a great extent, for the mess New York City is in today.

It took Greenbelt to teach me that fighting City Hall can be fun.

I don't mean to imply that all New York City needs to solve its problems is the loan of our City Council, a copy of the Greenbelt Master Plan, and a Bronx chapter of the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt.

I do mean, however, that as far as my personal education is concerned, the fascination of the time-honored American sport of politics is something I failed to grasp in the city; it took life in a small town to teach it to me. The tug of war between contrasting interests—not in form of vague abstractions, but in the shape of real men and women arguing because they have something vital at stake: their pocketbooks, their principles, the education of their children—the play of personalities in the elected officials and the citizens who come to their meetings—the suspense of a close vote, the triumph when your own side wins and the chagrin when it loses—all these make politics absorbing, and they can't be appreciated by relying exclusively on second-hand reports.

Let's not forget the comic relief of politics, too, which is particularly in evidence at budget hearings. The stout elderly gentleman reading an impassioned plea to the Recreation Department to refrain from subsidizing ballet lessons—as alarmed as though some totalitarian plot were about to force him to do entrechats and arabesques against his will; the embattled gardener with the bedraggled rosebed, urging the city to mount an all-out campaign against the Japanese beetle; the advocates of a 24-hour guard posted at the statue in the Center Mall to prevent juveniles from painting its feet green; any true council-meeting buff has a mental gallery in which these and similar types are enshrined.

— October 21, 1965

Greenbelt Grab-bag

by Punchin' Judy

Dec. 10, 2165

Dear Marge:

Well, here I am visiting the restored old town of Greenbelt. As you know, this ancient city had been buried for many years under something called "High Rise," but now it has been faithfully restored to the way it was in the federal period.

My, it's fascinating to see how those ancients lived. We approached the houses through what our guide said was an underpass. This is a sort of tunnel, painted white, with Old English words written on it. From there we followed a path which led to a "court," which is a pebble-covered area with holes in it. Here the old inhabitants parked their helicars. Come to think of it, that was probably before the days of helicars, so maybe they had wagons instead.

Next we went into one of the restored houses. No expense has been spared to make these houses authentic and typical of that period. The one I remember best is brick, with chipped white paint on the outside and a sort of indescribable beige inside. You may not believe this, but the floors are not wood, nor stone, nor anything I ever saw, but some funny kind of black stuff. I swear I don't know how the housewives of the time kept them clean, because they showed every footprint.

The kitchen was just too quaint for words. There was a big white thing on legs where the primitive inhabitants drew their water. The pipes are clearly visible, and it's amazing how ingenious these old settlers were. In the upper part of the house there is a similar contrivance called a washbasin. Here there are two levers, one for hot water and one for cold, but there doesn't seem to be any way of getting anything in between.

The same is true of the heating system. These are funny iron things along the wall with a wheel on each. Apparently there is a choice of two heats, too hot and too cold. Oh, the hardships of those early days!

After visiting the houses, we went to place called the Center. Here we saw a store called a Co-op. The guide said that was short for "cooperate," but I don't exactly know what that means. I guess it is something we do not do any more.

Incidentally, the ladies who acted as our guides were all authentically dressed in the costume of that period: slacks, car coats, and hair rollers. We took many pictures.

We said goodbye to this interesting historical town at the base of a statue. Apparently this was a sort of sacrifice place, because even after all these years, you can still see the marks of fire around its base.

Well, Marge, that's all for now. When you go on your vacation, I hope you too will be able to visit this restored town of Greenbelt.

Love,

Ellie

P.S. When you approach the town on the highway that they call Greenbelt Road, watch out for that bad intersection near the shopping center. I wonder why they don't put up a traffic light.

— December 9, 1965

WE GET LETTERS

Over the years, some of the liveliest reading in the newspaper has been found in the column devoted to Letters to the Editor. We reprint a few choice excerpts below.

"Credit where credit is due, please! Lately, the News Review has been giving me too much credit and others not enough. . . . Two weeks ago, in an Our Neighbors item about the birth of my son, I was named (with a slight mis-spelling), my son and my daughters were named, but — my wife, Rose, who had quite a bit to do with the whole thing, was not mentioned."

(May 30, 1963)

"Greenbelt is not just a plain, ordinary town. In another hundred years it will be a national monument, and losing it to four-lane highways created by greenback-centered, fast buck zoning will be a loss to many more people than the few of us who presently live here. If we are to keep Greenbelt we have to fight for it, loudly, clearly, and aggressively now, and later at the polls."

(April 22, 1965)

"Everytime I see the News Review there is another 'Battle With a Builder'. No matter what the citizens of Greenbelt do to preserve our town as it was planned, we always lose. . . . I would like to have the answer — when does someone listen to us and do something more than write a very proper, careful, and sympathetic letter? I'm tired of pity — I would like to see some victories!"

(April 29, 1965)

"Midnight shadows hide Candy Lane City, the pool, and all of this unique and beautiful community of Greenbelt. Also shrouded are the countless pieces of broken glass, papers, cardboard cartons, cans of every variety, and even old tires which pock-mark our community, the most unusually planned city I've seen in five States."

"Our family is new here, less than a month, and we were initially pleased with the many fea-

tures here, but in the clear light of day the wanton disregard that some people have for their community has come to us.

"May I be old-fashioned and say: Let's keep the Green in Greenbelt."

(July 29, 1965)

O Thus Be It Ever!

(A long-needed traffic light across from Kleins was finally put in with the help of the Giant supermarket).

O say can you see

At the entrance to Klein's
What we sorely did need
Every time we drove shopping
Whose red STOP and green GO
Over traffic's dense lines
Out of chaos brought order
All those accidents stopping.
And the brakelight's red glare
The cars stopping right there
Gave proof to our eyes
That some Giant did care
(Chorus)

O say that our wonderful
Traffic light yet shines
Where the highway is safe—
At the entrance to Klein's!

One out of many
(December 9, 1965)

The Last Meow

(One of many letters received about a controversy involving a proposed cat control ordinance)

Speaking on behalf of my associates, I respectfully submit that further debate on the relative merits of us cats should be dispensed with. The question of our value to the community will never be resolved.

It will not be resolved because sweeping generalities about us are inaccurate. There are good cats and bad cats. There are clean cats and dirty cats. There are quiet cats and noisy cats (also called Hep Cats). There are peace-loving cats and belligerent cats.

But, one thing for certain, we are not so important that the Greenbelt City Council should spend its time and effort arguing about us instead of resolving weightier problems. Nor are we important enough that our citizens should waste time writing angry letters denouncing us or praising us.

Some people love us. We, in turn, love them back. But let's face it, other folks despise us. Well, what the heck, no one's perfect. Actually our code is fairly simple: Love those who love you; try to live peacefully with everyone; fight only when unreasonably provoked and then fight hard and courageously.

When you get right down to it, in many ways we're not much different from humans.

Tom Cat
(December 29, 1966)

'PLEASE TELL THE BUILDERS'

I think people should stop cutting down trees. If they don't, this city won't be called Greenbelt. They are chopping down more trees every year and our trees and city won't be beautiful any more. Everybody knows we need a home but did you ever think of animals? They need a home too. Squirrels and birds need a home. Other creatures need safety in summer from the hot, hot sun. The men probably know this but never think of it. Will you please tell the builders that we want to keep our woods to walk in and for animals to live in?

Wendy April Lewis
7 years old
(March 12, 1966)

FIRST ISSUE (from P. 1-A)

in the present basement office at 15 Parkway. With the withdrawal of the Federal Government from town, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Greenbelt Development Corporation) continued the federal policy of providing free office space, with the paper reimbursing the corporation for out-of-pocket expenses.

The entire staff consists of volunteer workers, most of whom have joined the paper as their contribution to their community's activities. Since March, 1957, nominal payments have been authorized to the editorial staff and to columnists — when finances permit, of course. There have been 38 changes in editorship during the paper's 30 years, attesting to the difficulty of this job; the position is at present held by Mary Smith and there are 20 staff members.

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